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relations between Semenov and Walter Ulbricht have taken to the worse. Ulbricht, by his lack of cooperation with Karlshorst and arbitrariness, was endangering the plans of the Soviets in East Germany. Thus, for instance, Ulbricht ordered that action squads be formed and charged with the missions to disturb party rallies of the CDU and FDP in which the election of a successor of Ernst Reuter, mayor of West Berlin, was to be discussed. This action was designed to prevent the continuation of the large coalition in West Berlin, to spread unrest among the working class and to provoke them into a general strike. This development was to prepare the launching of direct actions against West Berlin. Plans had also been made to profane Ernst Reuter's tomb and to place the blame for this barbarous act on FDP Fascists. However, Semenov ordered Ernst Wollweber to take immediate action to prevent these acts. After Semenov reported on these happenings to Moscow, Ulbricht had to go on leave to the USSR without any prior warning. He was not even given time to take leave of his co-workers. He was forced to fly on 6 October, so that he was not present when the 4th anniversary of the foundation of the East German Democratic Republic was celebrated.

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Comment. The report appears credible. There are several indications that Ulbricht wanted to take more radical measures against West Berlin and that the relations between Semenov and Ulbricht are strained. It was previously reported that Ulbricht was at Pankow on 6 October, and that he flew to Moscow the evening of 6 October or the morning of 7 October.

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